

## CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device comprising:  
means for requesting access to the electronic device;  
means for determining that authorisation is required in order that access  
5 be provided;  
means for transmitting a search signal upon determination that  
authorisation is required;  
means for receiving an authorisation signal; and  
means for providing access to the electronic device in dependence on the  
10 received authorisation signal.
2. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to  
claim 1, further comprising means for determining a first time period between  
transmission of the search signal and receipt of the authorisation signal wherein  
access to the electronic device is provided in dependence on the first time period  
15 being less than a first predefined time period.
3. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to  
claim 2, comprising a means to re-transmit the search signal if the authorisation  
signal is not received within the first predefined time period.
4. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to  
20 claim 2 or 3, comprising means for requesting manual authorisation if the  
authorisation signal is not received within the first predefined time period.
5. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to  
claim 4, comprising means for inputting manual authorisation.
6. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to  
25 claim 5, wherein the manual authorisation is a personal identification number.
7. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to

any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the means for determining that authorisation is required performs this function on power up of the electronic device.

8. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the means for determining that authorisation is required performs this function when access to selected applications on the  
5 electronic device is requested.

9. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to claim 7, wherein the means for determining that authorisation is required performs this function periodically after power up of the electronic device.

10. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to any one of claims 1 to 9, comprising means for measuring a second time period for which the electronic device has been idle.

11. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to claim 10, wherein the means for determining that authorisation is required  
15 performs this function in dependence on the second time period exceeding a second predefined time period.

12. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to claim 11, wherein the second predefined time period is determined by a user.

13. An apparatus for providing access to an electronic device according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the search signal and authorisation signal  
20 are radio signals.

14. An apparatus for providing remote authorisation to access an electronic device comprising:

means for receiving a search signal from the electronic device; and

25 means for transmitting an authorisation signal for the electronic device in response to the received search signal.

15. An apparatus for providing remote authorisation to access an electronic device according to claim 14, wherein the search signal and authorisation signal are radio signals.

5 steps of:  
requesting access to the electronic device;  
determining that authorisation is required in order that access be provided;  
transmitting a search signal upon determining that authorisation is required;  
10 receiving an authorisation signal; and  
providing access to the electronic device in dependence on the received authorisation signal.

17. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to claim 16, including the further step of comparing a first time period between the  
15 transmission of the search signal and the receipt of the authorisation signal with a first predefined time period and providing access to the electronic device in dependence on the time period being less than the first predefined time period.

18. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to claim 17, including the step of re-transmitting the search signal if the authorisation  
20 signal is not received within the first predefined time period.

19. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to claim 17 or 18, including the step of requesting manual authorisation if the authorisation signal is not received within the first predefined time period.

20. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to  
25 claim 19, wherein the manual authorisation is a personal identification number.

21. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to

any one of claims 16 to 20, wherein the step of determining that authorisation is required is performed on power up of the electronic device.

22. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to any one of claims 16 to 21, wherein the step of determining that authorisation is required is performed when access to selected applications on the electronic device is requested.

23. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to claim 22, wherein the step of determining that authorisation is required is performed periodically after power up of the electronic device.

24. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to any one of claims 16 to 23, including the step of measuring a second time period for which the electronic device has been idle.

25. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to claim 24, wherein the step of determining that authorisation is required is performed in dependence on the second time period exceeding a second predefined time period.

26. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to claim 25, wherein the second predefined time period is determined by the user.

27. A method for providing access to an electronic device according to any one of claims 16 to 26, wherein the search signals and authorisation signals are radio signals.

28. A method for providing remote authorisation to access to an electronic device comprising the steps of:

receiving a search signal; and

transmitting an authorisation signal for the electronic device in response to the received search signal.

29. A method for providing remote authorisation to access an electronic device according to claim 28, wherein the search signal and authorisation signal are radio signals.

30. A system for authorising access to an electronic device comprising:  
5 an electronic device; and an electronic module,  
wherein the electronic device comprises  
means for requesting access to the electronic device,  
means for determining that authorisation is required in order that access  
be provided,  
10 means for transmitting a search signal upon determination that  
authorisation is required,  
means for receiving an authorisation signal, and  
means for providing access to the electronic device in dependence on the  
received authorisation signal,  
15 and wherein the electronic module comprises  
means for receiving a search signal from the electronic device, and  
means for transmitting an authorisation signal for the electronic device in  
response to the received search signal.

31. A method for authorising access to an electronic device including the  
20 steps of:  
requesting access to the electronic device;  
determining that authorisation is required in order to provide access to the  
electronic device;  
transmitting a search signal from the electronic device upon determining  
25 that authorisation is required;  
receiving the search signal at an electronic module;

transmitting an authorisation signal from the electronic module in response to the received search signal;

receiving the authorisation signal at the electronic device; and

providing access to the electronic device in dependence on the received

5 authorisation signal.